

Lech L'cha

A Journey Ancient and New

Terah was an idol maker.

Once Terah traveled to another place and left his son, Abraham, to sell the idols. This is what would happen: Someone would come wanting to buy an idol and Abraham would say to him: "How old are you?" The buyer would say, "I'm 50." Or, "I'm 60." Abraham would reply: "Such a pity that a 60 year old is looking to bow down to an idol that is a day old." The embarrassed buyer would leave.

One time a woman came bearing a flour offering. She said to Abraham: "Offer this before the idols." Abraham picked up a walking stick and smashed all of the idols but the biggest one and then put the stick into the hand of that statue.

When his father returned and saw the damage, he said to Abraham: "Who did all of this?" Abraham said: "There's no sense in keeping it from you. A woman came with a flour offering and asked me to please offer it to the idols. I brought them the offering and then one said: 'I'm eating first,' and another idol said: 'I'm eating first.' Then the biggest of the idols got up, picked up a walking stick, and smashed all of the other idols."

Terah said: "Why are you trying to fool me? Are they living beings?!" Abraham replied: "Don't your ears hear what your mouth is saying?!"

Genesis Rabbah 38:13



אֲנַחְנוּ כְּלָנוּ בְּנֵי אַבְרָהָם	We are all children of Abraham
אֲבָל אֲנַחְנוּ גַם הַנְּכָדִים שֶׁל תְּרַח, אָבִי אַבְרָהָם.	but we are also the grandchildren of Terah, Abraham's father.
וְעַכְשָׁיו אוֹלֵי הַגִּיעַ זְמַן הַנְּכָדִים לַעֲשׂוֹת	And now perhaps the time has come for the grandchildren to do
לְאַבְיָהֶם מַה שֶּׁהוּא עָשָׂה לְאַבְיוֹ,	to their father what he did to his father,
שֶׁשָּׁבַר אֶת תְּרַפָּיו וְאֶלִילָיו, אֶת דָּתוֹ וְאֶמוּנָתוֹ.	when he broke his statues and idols, his religion and faith.
אֲבָל גַּם זֹאת תְּהִיָה הַתְּחִלַּת דָּת חֲדָשָׁה.	But this too will be the beginning of a new religion.

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